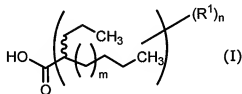


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(currently amended):** A compound represented by formula (I):



wherein

R^1 represents hydroxy or oxo,

~~~~~ indicates  $\alpha$ -configuration,  $\beta$ -configuration or a mixture of these in an arbitrary proportion,

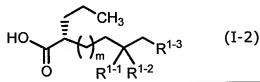
$n$  represents an integer of 1 to 3, and

$m$  represents an integer of 1 to 10; and

wherein two or more  $R^1$ 's are not bound to the same carbon atom other than the terminal carbon atom,

a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof,

in which said compound is a compound represented by formula (I-2):



wherein

$R^{1-1}$  and  $R^{1-2}$  are each independently a hydrogen atom or hydroxy, or

R<sup>1-1</sup> is taken together with R<sup>1-2</sup> to represent oxo,

R<sup>1-3</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or hydroxy,

m represents an integer of 1 to 10, and

..... indicates  $\alpha$ -configuration; and

wherein, when R<sup>1-1</sup> is taken together with R<sup>1-2</sup> to represent oxo, R<sup>1-3</sup> represents a hydrogen atom,

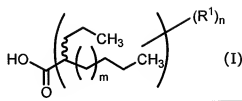
with the proviso that (2R)-7-oxo-2-propyloctanoic acid is excluded.

2.-6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended): ~~The A~~ compound according to claim 6, which is selected from the group consisting of ~~(2R)-7-oxo-2-propyloctanoic acid~~, (2R,7R)-7-hydroxy-2-propyloctanoic acid, (2R,7S)-7-hydroxy-2-propyloctanoic acid and (2R)-8-hydroxy-2-propyloctanoic acid, a salt thereof, or a prodrug thereof.

8. (currently amended): The compound according to claim 6 1 or 7, which is obtained by chemical synthesis.

9. (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition, which comprises:  
the a compound represented by formula (I); ~~depicted in claim 1, a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof;~~



wherein

R<sup>1</sup> represents hydroxy or oxo,

~~~~~ indicates  $\alpha$ -configuration,  $\beta$ -configuration or a mixture of these in an

arbitrary proportion,

n represents an integer of 1 to 3, and

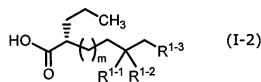
m represents an integer of 1 to 10; and

wherein two or more R¹'s are not bound to the same carbon atom other than the

terminal carbon atom,

a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof,

in which said compound is a compound represented by formula (I-2):



wherein

R¹⁻¹ and R¹⁻² are each independently a hydrogen atom or hydroxy, or

R¹⁻¹ is taken together with R¹⁻² to represent oxo,

R¹⁻³ represents a hydrogen atom or hydroxy,

m represents an integer of 1 to 10, and

~~~~~ indicates  $\alpha$ -configuration; and

wherein, when  $R^{1-1}$  is taken together with  $R^{1-2}$  to represent oxo,  $R^{1-3}$  represents a hydrogen atom, and

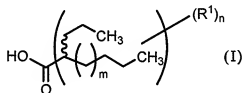
a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~carrier or diluent~~ additive agent.

10.-18. (canceled).

19. (currently amended): A method for ~~preventing—and/or~~ treating a neurodegenerative disease, which comprises administering to a mammal an effective amount of the compound represented by formula (I) depicted in claim 1, a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.


20. (canceled).

21. (new): A compound represented by formula (I):



wherein

$R^1$  represents hydroxy or oxo,

 indicates  $\alpha$ -configuration,  $\beta$ -configuration or a mixture of these in an arbitrary proportion,

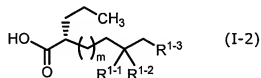
n represents an integer of 1 to 3, and

m represents an integer of 1 to 10; and

wherein two or more R<sup>1'</sup>s are not bound to the same carbon atom other than the terminal carbon atom,

a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof,

in which said compound is a compound represented by formula (I-2):



wherein

R<sup>1-1</sup> and R<sup>1-2</sup> are each independently a hydrogen atom or hydroxy,

R<sup>1-3</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or hydroxy,

m represents an integer of 1 to 10, and

||||| indicates  $\alpha$ -configuration.